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Page 8



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FREE TAKE ONE

Tributes paid to teenage friends killed in car crash

By Owen Hughes

TRIBUTES have been paid to two college friends who were found dead more than six hours after their car crashed on the A30 near Basingstoke.

The two 18-year-old women died when their car came off the side of the road and collided with trees near the Hatch pub.

A member of the public spotted the crashed car and reported it to police shortly before 5am on Wednesday last week.

Police said initially they did not know what time the collision happened and asked anyone who drove east-bound along the A30 between 9.50pm on Tuesday and 5am on Wednesday to get in touch.

Officers now believe the crash happened at around 10.35pm, more than six hours before the two students were discovered.

Both Ella Alford, of Pembroke Road, Basingstoke, and Aimee Clayton, of Sheldons Road, Hook, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Ella was driving the white Fiat 500, which was discovered by the side of the A30, and Aimee was the passenger.

Ella's family have paid tribute to her, and said: "No words can ever express the sorrow and heartbreak we feel as we try to come to terms with the untimely and tragic loss of our beautiful, selfless daughter, granddaughter, sister, niece and cousin."

• Continues on page 3

Look what I invented...



A YOUNG Tadley inventor scooped top prize in a national competition for her creative idea.

Five-year-old Beatrice could see her invention immortalised in an upcoming Mr Men Little Miss book after her idea for air bandages won a national competition organised by publishers Sanrio.

The competition heralded the launch of a new Little Miss Inventor title, with the green-haired character making an appearance at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester where Beatrice was given her prize.

Sanrio said it is "really excited to bring someone's invention to life" in the new title.

Other ideas to save Mr Bump from accidents included a jelly coat, a bubble bike, and a brilliant bandage put-a-onger machine.

Air Bandages
Beatrice, Age 5

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House prices rise to 10 times the average wage

By Owen Hughes

HOUSE buyers will need to stump up more than £326,000 for a home as Basingstoke house prices reach more than 10 times the average salary.

The average house price in Hampshire swelled to £340,637 after a 6.7 per cent increase in the South East between 2016 to 2017 according to a report by the National Housing Federation.

House prices and rents in the region have risen faster than London over the last two years, where the average price rise was only 3.5 per cent.

The data also reveals that Basingstoke and Deane house prices cost £326,633.

This means prospective buyers will need an income of £77,860, more than double the average £31,720 earnings

in the area.

Average monthly rents have also risen to £916 – people spend almost 40 per cent of their income on rent.

Basingstoke and Deane also accounts for a fifth of the total housing association affordable homes in the county, more than any other individual borough in the whole of the South East.

VIVID, the largest housing association in Hampshire, attributes the reason for the “housing crisis” to a shortfall of new homes.

Mike Shepherd, director of new business and development at VIVID, said: “We’re strongly committed to building 1,200 new homes a year in the South East to help address the housing crisis.

“We have numerous developments under way in Basingstoke that will

deliver much needed bright and modern homes to the local community.

“They’ll be offered over a range of tenures to suit different needs, from low cost rent to market sale and Shared Ownership properties that provide people with an excellent opportunity to purchase a home with a much smaller deposit.”

Gosport in south Hampshire ranked the most affordable place to buy a home in the South East, with the average house price £208,110.

Winchester (£466,574), Hart (£250,945) and East Hampshire (£416,877) are the most expensive places to buy a house in the county.

Three per cent of people in Basingstoke are unemployed, 0.3 per cent fewer than the average in the area and more than one per cent below the national UK average of 4.3 per cent.

You're in for a big surprise at shopping centre

LIONS, warthogs and gorillas are not what you might expect to see on a shopping trip.

But Festival Place in Basingstoke was transformed into a rather unusual safari at the weekend when LEGO sculptures of more than 20 colourful life-size animals went on display.

The intricately designed models formed a fun jungle trail designed for families to challenge themselves to find as many creatures as they can in the shopping centre to be in with a chance of winning a prize.

Steven Connolly, centre director at Festival Place, said: “We are really excited about bringing the LEGO safari tour to the shopping centre.

“The animal sculptures are incredibly life-like and have to be seen to be believed to appreciate the amount of effort and time that has gone into building them.

“We will have animals people might expect on a safari like lions and tigers,



and some more unfamiliar ones, such as parrots and spiders.”

The event began on Thursday last week and will run until Sunday.

Register for May elections

BASINGSTOKE residents are reminded to have their say in the upcoming borough elections.

Voters in Basingstoke and Deane will go to the polls on Thursday May 3 to elect one third of the borough's 60 councillors.

Those registered in one of the 20 wards scheduled for a borough election will be entitled to vote to elect a borough councillor to serve their ward until May 2019.

Seven parishes are also up for election.

Those who are not already registered to vote or who have moved since the annual canvass last summer must submit an application to be registered no later than midnight on April 17.

Those wishing to vote by post or cancel their existing postal vote must do so by 5pm on April 18.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's electoral registration officer Mel Barrett said: “Last summer as part of the annual canvass, we wrote to households asking people to check their details were correct on the borough's electoral register.

“Over 95 per cent of people responded, however you will need to register in order to vote.”

Find out how to register, check whether you are registered, or update your details by visiting www.basingstoke.gov.uk/vote or calling 01256 845467.

Assault near pub

A 47-year-old man was left with a broken jaw and fractured ribs after a vicious assault in Basingstoke on Sunday.

The victim remembers walking along Winchester Road towards the King of Wessex pub between 1am and 2.10am and noticing a group of noisy people near the entrance to Hawfield Lane.

He lost consciousness during the assault and does not remember anything else about the attack.

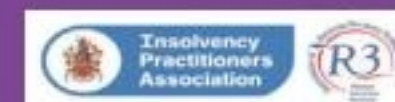
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Drink driver jailed for deaths of teenage boys

Speeding motorist killed young footballer and friends

By Owen Hughes

A DRINK driver responsible for the death of promising Basingstoke Town FC teenager has had his sentence reduced by more than seven years.

Harry Louis Rice, 17, was killed with two friends when a car travelling over 70 miles per hour mounted the pavement and collided with the group of boys.

Jaynesh Chudasama, 28, of Hayes, was initially sentenced to 20 years and six months after admitting causing the deaths of the three teenagers due to his dangerous driving.

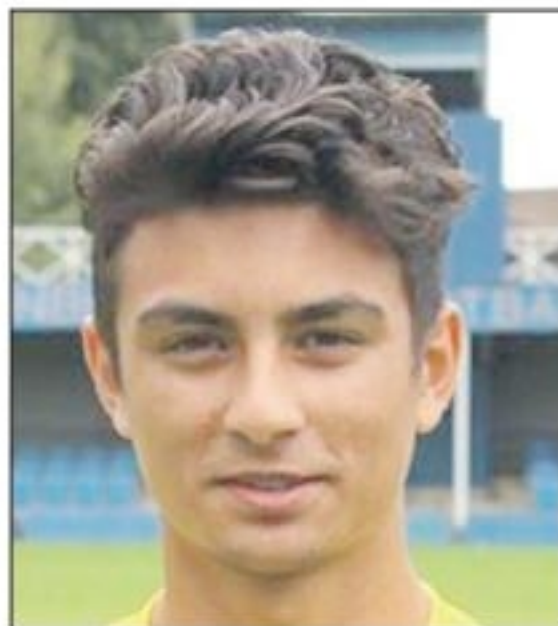
This was then reduced to 13 years for entering an early guilty plea at the Old Bailey on Wednesday last week.

He pleaded guilty to three counts of causing death by dangerous driving at the same court on February 26.

The fatal collision occurred on January 26 at around 8.40pm.

Harry, George Wilkinson, 16, and Josh McGuinness, 16, were walking along the pavement with friends in Shepiston Lane, Hayes, on their way to a birthday party.

The Audi A5 driven by Chudasama with one other occupant was travelling eastwards when it mounted the pavement at an estimated 71mph and hit the boys.



Harry Rice, above, was killed with his two friends when the car driven by Jaynesh Chudasama, right, ploughed into them in Hayes



Officers and London Ambulance Service attended the scene and despite their efforts, all three boys tragically died at the scene.

Both the occupants of the car fled on foot following the collision before members of the public detained Chudasama. He was arrested at the scene and charged on January 28.

Detective superintendent Andy Cox said: "The thoughts of the Metropolitan Police are with the families and friends of George Wilkinson, Josh McGuinness and Harry Rice at this unimaginably difficult time."

"Jaynesh Chudasama took the decision that evening to drive at excess speed while under the influence of alcohol – a decision that resulted in the death of three young men."

"Following a thorough investigation by officers from the Roads and Transport Policing Command, Chudasama has been jailed for his actions."

"While this will be of little comfort to the families of George, Josh and Harry, I hope this acts as a stark reminder to others of the devastating consequences that dangerous driving can have."



Aimee Clayton's family spoke of a unique and amazingly gifted soul



Ella Alford has been described as a kind, funny girl, with the biggest heart

Families mourn tragic losses

From front page

"Our kind, funny girl, with the biggest heart, who always put everyone else before herself."

"A tragic loss to our family and the many friends whose lives she touched, she leaves a hole that can never, ever be filled."

"Forever young, forever beautiful, forever in our hearts."

Aimee's family also paid tribute to her, and said: "Our beautiful Aimee, our angel, such a unique and amazingly gifted soul who always had time and patience for anybody, destined for great things, but taken far too soon."

"She will be greatly missed by all who knew her and we as a family are left bereft."

The teenagers both went to Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

Peter Banks, of the Students' Union, wrote on Twitter: "My prayers and thoughts tonight are solely with the close friends and family of Aimee and Ella."

"The whole Peter Symonds College community is with you through this awful time."

Base Youth Centre in Hook opened on Saturday afternoon with youth counsellors on site for those affected by the deaths of Aimee and Ella.

Hampshire Constabulary said they are still keen to speak to anyone who was travelling along that road at around 10.35pm on Tuesday.

Anyone with information should call 101 quoting reference 44180114591.

Efit released after rape claim

DETECTIVES have released an efit image following the rape of a 15-year-old girl in Basingstoke.

The teenage victim said she was walking alone towards the footbridge over Ringway North when a man on a mountain bike whom she did not know grabbed her and then raped her.

The girl then made her way home.

The incident is reported to have taken place at around 8.30pm on Monday January 22 near a footpath that leads from Strafield Road

in Oakridge to the footbridge.

The man has been described as white, of large build, aged between 30 and 40 years old, with a full short beard that was styled.

He was wearing a dark green woolly hat, a blue rain jacket, black tracksuit bottoms and work boots, and spoke with an Eastern European accent.

Detective Inspector Penny Murray said: "We have been following a number of lines of enquiry since the investigation began, and we would still like to hear from anyone

The efit of the man police would like to talk to



who thinks they may have information about what happened."

Anyone who recognises the man or has any information can call 101 quoting reference 44180028837.

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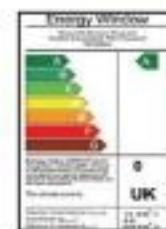
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Family tributes to dazzling daughter

A BASINGSTOKE family has paid tribute to their "precious loving daughter" who died following a collision in Kings Worthy last week.

Sarah Hoare, 27, of Appleton Drive, Basingstoke, was in the front seat of a silver BMW that collided with a tree on the A33, Basingstoke Road, shortly before 2am on March 26.

Both Miss Hoare and driver of the car, Christopher Tarrant, from Basingstoke, were pronounced dead at the scene.

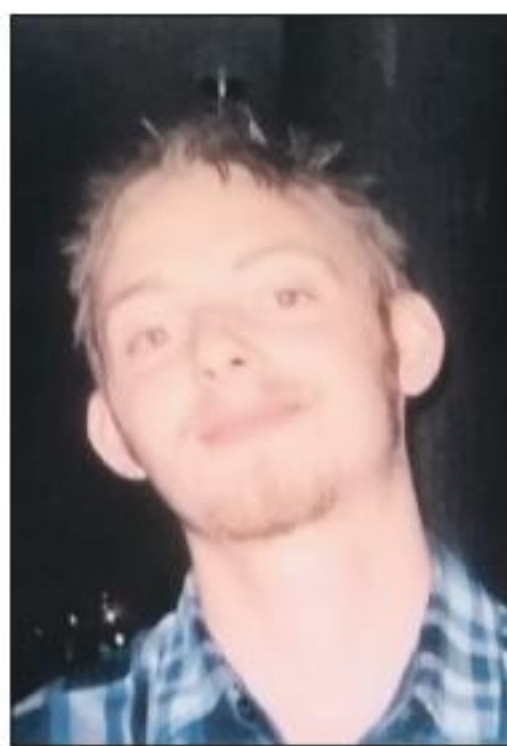
Miss Hoare's family said: "It is with regret that we have to announce the death of our precious loving daughter Sarah Louise 'Dazzle' Hoare.

"Taken from us far too soon. Fly high with baby Zane sweet-heart.

"As a family, with support from friends, we will get through this."

Last week, Mr Tarrant's family also paid tribute to the 27-year-old.

They said: "Chris, known to all as Tosh, was a loving son, brother, dad, uncle and friend.



Sarah Hoare was a passenger in the car driven by Christopher Tarrant which collided with a tree on the A33 – both were killed in the accident in the early hours of March 26

"He will be sorely missed by everyone."

A 21-year-old woman from Basingstoke, who was travelling in the back of the car, was seriously injured and taken to Southampton General Hospital.

Hampshire Constabulary are continuing their investigations into the exact circumstances of the collision.

Anyone with any information should call 101 quoting 44180111573.

Business fund to help keep council tax low

Invest to Grow will encourage new jobs

By Owen Hughes

FUNDS used to build a new office for a major employer in Basingstoke could "help keep the council tax low".

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council set up the Invest to Grow fund to encourage developers to bring new jobs and facilities to the area.

Its first investment will pay for construction costs of a new headquarters in Basing View for Eli Lilly and Company.

The new 45,000 sq ft office will be constructed as part of the borough council's partnership with Muse Developments.

The borough council will own the new building, bringing in additional rent to help fund council services.

Work is scheduled to begin later this year, subject to planning permission.

Councillor John Izett, cabinet member for property and development, said: "This shows it

was right for the council to step forward and use its financial resources to fund projects that keep jobs in our borough.

"We rely on rents from our property portfolio and returns on our investments to help keep the council tax low.

"The fund will earn a much better rate of return than the council's current cash investments, helping to maintain services, despite reducing Government support."

"We rely on rents from our property portfolio and returns on our investments to help keep the council tax low"

Councillor John Izett

Cllr Izett added that the new purpose-built offices and The Florence Building, currently under construction, will "strengthen Basingstoke's position as a key

destination for businesses in the south east."

This is the first project to be supported by the Invest to Grow fund, set up by the council in 2016 using £25million from long-term investments.

Established through specialist advisors CBRE, the fund is aimed at kick-starting commercial property and infrastructure projects in the Basingstoke area.

CBRE investment advisory senior director George Richards said: "We are delighted to have forward funded the development of this new office campus on behalf of the Invest to Grow fund."

This is the first purpose-built office building in the M3 corridor for seven years and will be the second largest asset in the council's extensive property investment portfolio.

The new office building in the heart of the town for Lilly will replace the company's 11 acre campus on Priestley Road in Basingstoke.

Four arrested in drugs crackdown

FOUR people were arrested by Hampshire police in a drugs crackdown in Basingstoke on Thursday last week.

Officers from the Basingstoke Safer Neighbourhood Team carried out searches at two addresses – one in Lindisfarne Close, Popley, and another in Freemantle Close, Oakridge – arresting four people and seizing suspected Class A drugs.

A 34-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, both from Basingstoke,

were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A.

A 22-year-old man from Reading and a 17-year-old boy from Slough were also arrested on identical charges.

The operation was part of Fortress, Hampshire Constabulary's campaign to shield communities from drug-related harm through enforcement and partnership working.

Sergeant Carl Holmes said:

"People who bring drugs into our communities should feel at constant risk of being stopped and arrested.

"We work hard to identify the networks that cause the most harm and dismantle them.

"Operations like the one today are done with the support of the community in giving us information. Any information you provide helps us build up a picture of what is really going on, which means we can take action."

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Lorry driver arrested over boy's death

A BASINGSTOKE lorry driver has been arrested following a collision which killed a three-year-old boy the day before his birthday.

Jaiden, son of Yasmin Dougan and James Mangan, was knocked down while crossing the road in North Street, Wareham, Dorset, at around 8.45am on Thursday last week.

A 43-year-old man from Basingstoke was arrested on suspicion of driving offences and has since been released under investigation.

A white Sainsbury's articulated

lorry hit the boy as he was crossing at a pedestrian crossing with his family.

Jaiden sustained very serious injuries and was taken to Dorset County Hospital in Dorchester where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

Specially trained officers from Dorset Police are supporting Jaiden's family.

A balloon release was held in the town on Friday last week to mark what would have been Jaiden's fourth birthday.

A crowd funding page has been set up to raise money for Jaiden's family

with donations totalling more than £3,800.

A community fundraising event is also taking place on Saturday for the family of Jaiden, including a raffle, games and face painting.

Dorset Police have appealed for witnesses and anyone with dashcam footage to get in touch as they continue their investigation into the circumstances around the collision.

Three-year-old Jaiden was killed a day before his fourth birthday



Gardening and writing under the spotlight

GREEN-FINGERED Basingstoke residents are being treated to a view of some of the many wonderful gardens across the county this month.

Hampshire county organiser of the National Garden Scheme, Mark Porter, will host a talk at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre on April 17 at 1.30pm about his work with the charity.

In his presentation, Mark will talk about the history of the National Garden Scheme and highlight some of the most inspiring gardens across Hampshire that are open to the scheme.

Mark will also explore how the funds raised are used to support the work of the charity.

The event will be one of the two final talks as part of Basingstoke libraries' spring programme.

Award-winning author Jean Fullerton will appear at Chineham Library on April 19 at 7.30pm to talk about her life and work.

Jean, a retired district nurse and university lecturer, has published 11 novels all set in East London.

Her talk Inside the Writer's Mind looks at the journey from dyslexic NHS manager to award-winning author and how a spark of an idea can become a 400 page novel.

Tickets to see Mark will cost £5, while tickets for Jean's talk will cost £6 and can be bought online at <https://bit.ly/2E1Xy3S>

Passport firm given more time

By Owen Hughes

A BASINGSTOKE-based company has been given a further two weeks to stake its claim to manufacture the new blue British passports.

De La Rue was set to appeal the government's decision to produce the post-Brexit passports overseas.

But the Home Office has now set a decision date of April 17 after the company requested a longer 'stand-still period'.

French-Dutch supplier Gemalto had secured the contract worth £490million to manufacture the iconic blue British passports in France.

The security and anti-counterfeiting provider responded defiantly to the decision by Her Majesty's Passport Office (HMPO) to not award De La

Rue the new contract following the tendering process.

De La Rue was informed of the decision on March 22 and had been preparing to take the government to court over the proposed move.

A spokesperson for the company said: "De La Rue has worked closely with HMPO over the last nine years, designing and producing the UK passport and establishing it as one of the most secure passports in the world.

"The current 10-year contract has a total value of c £400million."

On Twitter, the company wrote before the change of heart that it will "fight this decision" and that "the UK passport is an icon of national identity and we believe it should be manufactured in the UK by a British company".

An online petition to "manufacture

the new blue passport in Great Britain not Germany or France" has reached more than 33,000 signatures, surpassing the 10,000 needed for a government response.

A petition launched by the Daily Mail calling for the contract to be given to a British firm has so far reached 273,000 signatures.

The government's existing contract with De La Rue, which designs and produces the current burgundy passport, is set to expire in July next year.

More than six million passports are issued by the Home Office every year and it is the only provider of passports to British citizens.

The blue and gold passports will replace the burgundy ones from October 2019 for British nationals renewing or applying for a new passport.



The current burgundy passport and the previous blue one

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British rock band Reef will headline the main stage at this year's B LOVE festival

B in Love with this year's arts festival

By Owen Hughes

BASINGSTOKE prepares to put its hands on a new line-up of more than 70 live acts for a summer festival including Brit pop icons Reef.

The alternative rock band, known for their hit single Place Your Hands, are the first in a line-up of acts announced to perform at B LOVE and will entertain crowds on the main stage.

The new look live music festival, formerly known as Basingstoke Live, will take place at the War Memorial Park on July 7 and 8.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are funding the event, programmed by the B LOVE Forum.

Ross Harvie, the council's arts and events manager, said: "We are very excited to unveil our brand new B LOVE music festival, showcasing and celebrating the borough's love of live music."

"This year's new ticketed event

will bring bigger and better acts to the borough for just a small cost while still supporting the very best of Basingstoke's live music scene, providing a fantastic variety of music to suit all musical tastes.

"We've always said our aim is to grow the music festival and attract top quality acts for all ages."

"I'm delighted we have confirmed Reef to perform on the Main Stage and attracted world-class outdoor aerial performers to support our aim to make the music festival an event that can be enjoyed by all the family."

He added the full line up would be announced in the coming weeks.

The decision to introduce an entry fee charge to the festival this year was fraught with controversy after councillors called for a review of the decision.

No action was taken on the call-in, but the council's community, environment and partnerships

committee will look to assess the impact of the charge after the event.

This year's festival will be the finale event in the three-week long Basingstoke Festival and will combine top music acts with 50 of the borough's best musicians over five stages.

The family-friendly festival will feature many free activities for children, including storytelling, arts and crafts, a percussion playground, face painting and music workshops.

Aerial theatre company Ockham's Razor will entertain crowds along with innovative UK-based Zoellogic Dance Theatre's highly-acclaimed outdoor show RIDE.

Grammy Award-nominated percussionist and composer The Junkman will also be in residence for the weekend, performing and leading workshops.

Tickets will soon be available at: www.blovesmusic.com

Tax funds to help women and girls

A BASINGSTOKE based charity will benefit from the largest grant awarded to any organisation in the country from the Tampon Tax Fund.

National charity UK Community Foundations has been awarded £3.4million from the fund to support women and girls in communities.

The charity will lead a programme called TribeWomen across all 46 Community Foundations in the UK, including Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community

Foundation (HIWCF).

The projects will be responding to need, helping women and girls get into or back into work, raising awareness about health issues and will create and develop peer networks.

TribeWomen will focus on building skills and confidence, improving health and wellbeing and building social networks.

Funds generated from the VAT on sanitary products are allocated to projects that improve the lives of disadvantaged women and girls.

Victoria Papworth, director of programmes and development at UK Community Foundations, said: "We are delighted at being awarded the largest grant from the Tampon Tax Fund."

"We look forward to working in local communities to support women and girls to have the best future possible."

Parliament announced the names of 10 charities in total that will receive grants from the latest round of Tampon Tax funding, totalling £15m.

£3m to repair pothole-riddled roads

NORTH East Hampshire MP Ranil Jayawardena welcomed news that Hampshire will receive a share of government funds for pothole repairs.

Nearly £100million in Department for Transport funding has been handed out to councils to tackle the mounting pothole crisis in the country following extensive winter damage to roads.

Hampshire will receive a £2,956,522 share of the pothole/flood resilience funding announced on Monday last week.

More than £2m has already been given to Hampshire from the Pothole Action Fund this year.

The fund is also on top of Hamp-

shire highway's maintenance funding allocation of £23.8m in 2017/18, and will be £21.6m in 2018/19.

Ranil Jayawardena MP said: "Just as the UK recovered from the Beast from the East, our roads were battered again by Storm Emma."

"With this unexpected icy spell, our roads suffered more damage than Hampshire County Council could have anticipated."

"It is wholly welcome, therefore, that HM Government has recognised this problem and is providing Hampshire with an extra £3m to fix this winter's damage to our roads."



MP Ranil Jayawardena is delighted Hampshire has been given almost £3m to repair potholes

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*Kids Corner -
Children Welcome*

Kempshott
Basingstoke Rugby Club
Pack Lane
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Pat 07500 780553

Oakridge Village
Oakridge Hall for All
Forsythia Walk
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Lynn 07391 138672

TUESDAY

Town Centre
Carnival Hall
Council Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Nikki 0779 5515235

Winklebury
Rooksdown Community Centre
7 Park Prewett Rd
7.30pm
Tel: Tina 07810 147400

South Ham
Westside Community Centre
Paddock Road
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tel: Kirsty 07843 276953

WEDNESDAY

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The Harrow Way
5.30pm and 7.30pm
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Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
9.00am & 11.00am
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Kids Welcome

Popley
Melrose Hall, Abbey Road
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Tel: Julia 07528 131797

THURSDAY

Chineham
Chineham Village Hall
11.30am
Tel: Faith 07966 933994
Children Welcome

Chineham
Chineham Village Hall
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Faith 07966 933994

Brighton Hill
Hatch Warren Infant School,
Gershwin Road
5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tel: Nikki 07795 515235

FRIDAY

Tadley
Ambrose Allen Centre,
Franklin Avenue
9.30am
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Oakridge Hall for All
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£1,000 boost for school and club

Housebuilder's community fund

By Owen Hughes

A BASINGSTOKE-based gymnastics club was jumping for joy last month after being named a housebuilder's community champions.

Basingstoke Gymnastics Club and Mayhill Junior School, in Hook, were given the community champions award by Persimmon Homes Thames Valley in March, scooping £1,000 in funding each.

The club is fundraising for a new tumble track mat, which coaches say will help them train for the European Championships later this month.

Over the last 10 years, the gym's tumbling group has produced European and World champions.

Persimmon Homes sales director Rachel Faulkner said: "There are so many different voluntary groups helping to make life better for local people, so we are proud to be able to support organisations in our region.

"Neighbourhood sports clubs help to create a real sense of community, while schools offer an invaluable extra-curricular service where it is most needed. Both of these groups thoroughly deserve our community champions award."

Mayhill Junior School was also a successful applicant last year, and

this follow-up bid is to help the school complete its full refurbishment of a community area.

Children and families from nearby RAF Odiham and the surrounding area will be able to use the revamped space.

Around 40 per cent of the school's 221 pupils are from the RAF base.

Since the school's last bid, designs have been completed for the new space and work began over Easter.

Headmaster Tom May said: "The money will be used to buy a potting shed, a six-seater outdoor table, wormery and the plants to get our four house gardening beds started.

"The area will be used by children throughout the school day and by parents before and after pick up.

"And during the summer term, as it is attached to our Chill Out club, the area will be used by our wrap-around care club providing childcare for the Odiham community."

Persimmon Homes' scheme invites groups and charities to bid for a slice of its £750,000 national fund, with two donations of up to £1,000 being made in the region each month.

Community groups, charities and good causes in Hampshire can apply for funding from the housebuilder at: <https://bit.ly/2qDAWRv>



Marathon feat to honour dad

A BASINGSTOKE man will be going the extra mile to raise funds for charity to support life saving work.

Carl Potts, 35, is running the iconic Virgin Money London Marathon this month to help raise funds for St John Ambulance in memory of his dad Barry, who passed away in 2010 aged 64.

Dad-of-two Carl chose to support St John Ambulance after seeing the charity's volunteers provide first aid at sporting events.

Carl said: "This is my first marathon, and I'm dedicating it to my dad who continues to be a huge inspiration in my life. It's going to be hard, but I'm certainly up for the challenge.

"We have a St John Ambulance unit near me, and I've seen the work the volunteers do at local running events.

"Also, growing up, I competed nationally in BMX and mountain biking, so I know how vital their first aid skills can be."

St John Ambulance is urging runners who have secured a place in the marathon on April 22 to consider raising money for the charity.

Anyone who won a place in the ballot, without choosing a charity to support, can still put their best foot forward to fundraise for the first aid charity.

To sponsor Carl visit: <https://bit.ly/2I7m2vd>



InBrief

Counting cash

A BASINGSTOKE-based technology company has acquired a business specialising in banknote sorting.

Cash Processing Solutions (CPS) announced the acquisition of iCubed Technologies on March 21 to develop cutting edge technology in the industry.

CPS chief executive Adam Lawrence said: "By bringing their expertise in-house, we can build on our long history of innovation."

Software provided to banks and cash-processing companies by CPS sorts over 100 billion banknotes per annum.

Homes selling fast

MORE than half of the homes at a new development in Overton, Basingstoke, have been sold.

Bellway Homes sales manager Marie Terrey said: "This is quite an achievement as we were only on site at the very end of January.

"We have recently opened a show room and that has made an impact."

Charity nets £1,000

MORE than 150 Basingstoke students and staff competed in 12 hours of netball to raise funds for Sport Relief.

The students – known as the Yellow Army for the yellow shirts that make up the school uniform – competed in more than 50 fixtures during the gruelling competitive sessions, raising more than £1,000.

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This has in recent times caused many to give up hope of finding the right property or place searches on hold."

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In order to move into their new home, buyers must first sell their existing home, adding even more stock to the market. With more stock on the market, transactions

By Romans Group

are likely to climb and confidence in the market will grow.

With more stock available and less competition from landlords, first time buyers are also more likely to find a suitable first home. First time buyers are incredibly important to the overall housing market as they allow existing owners to sell up and take their second step.

Antony summarises, "Buyers want choice and we have sellers who want to move. Finding a property to buy this spring will be easier than in previous years – you just need to get out there."

If you are looking to make a move this spring, contact Romans on 01344 985 666 or visit www.romans.co.uk/selling/freeevaluation



"Buyers want choice and we have sellers who want to move. Finding a property to buy this spring will be easier than in previous years – you just need to get out there."

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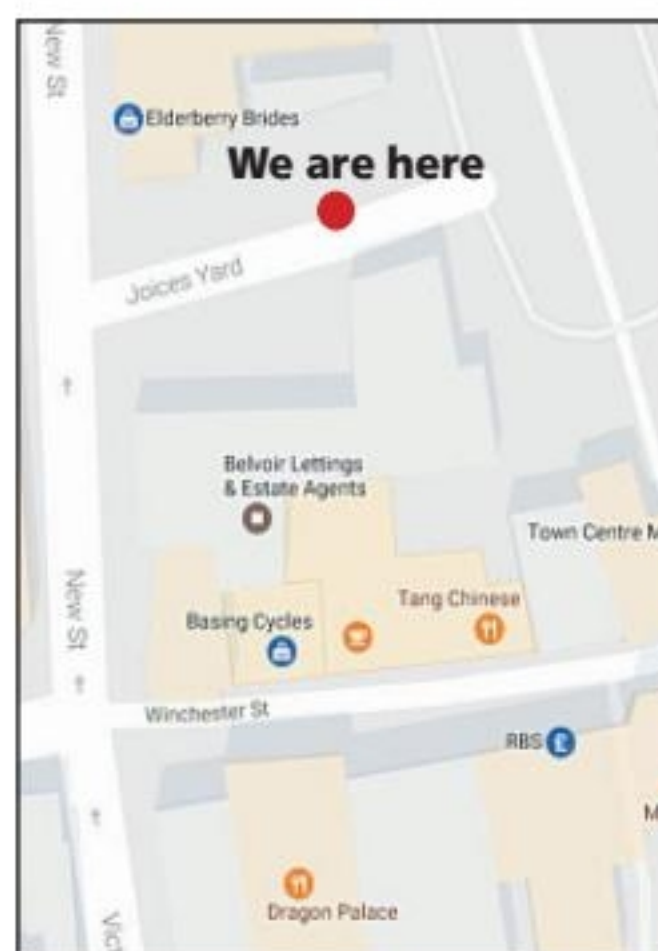
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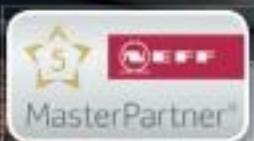
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Whisky Galore? Mine's a large one

By Josh Cox

AS Britain marks 100 years since women were given the vote, a new, all-female adaptation of Compton Mackenzie's hilarious Whisky Galore is coming to The Haymarket.

Partly inspired by the true story of the Osiris Players, a troupe of female actors who toured the British Isles from 1927 to 1963, this production is a tribute to the feisty, fearless all-female touring companies of the post-war years.

The islanders of Great and Little Todday are dismayed to find their whisky supply dwindling, as the government diverts the precious stuff to the Americans in an attempt to bribe them into supporting the British war effort.

When a 50,000 whisky bottle cargo shipwrecks close by, welcome relief seems to be at hand.

Conflict is guaranteed, however, once stuffy Paul Waggett of the Home Guard takes it upon himself to try and prevent the thirsty islanders from taking advantage of their good fortune.

Meanwhile, as in the finest of Shakespearean comedies, two weddings are planned; one hinges on timid George Campbell finding the 'Dutch' courage



to stand up to his disapproving mother; the other involves a leading English officer's love for the daughter of a leading whisky filcher.

Whisky Galore was published in 1947. It was adapted into an Ealing comedy film in 1949 and became an

instant success.

Tickets for Whisky Galore which runs from April 17 to 21 are priced from £22 to £24 for the evening performances and the 2pm performances cost £19.

There will be a free question and

answer session with the company in a post-show talk on Saturday April 21 after the 2pm performance.

For more information or for tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244, or visit the website anvilarts.org.uk.

On stage

Jam-ming in the hits

Local legend Chris Baker is back at The Bolton Arms in Old Basing performing at a free charity night on April 14 at 9pm.

The Jam, George Michael, Green Day, Robbie Williams, Neil Diamond, David Bowie, Rolling Stones; Chris expertly covers them all.

Force Ten blows in

Four-piece rock covers band Force Ten are to return to The Swan in Sherborne St John on April 21.

The group play a unique blend of classic and modern rock anthems designed to get the audience dancing.

The free gig starts at 9pm.

Fancy a laugh?

Winner of Edinburgh Comedy Award 2017, John Robins, will be performing stand up at The Haymarket on Sunday at 7.30pm.

Since debuting in 2005, John has established himself on the comedy circuit and with fellow comedian Elis James has enjoyed success with The Elis James and John Robins show on Radio X.

Tickets cost £16.50. Over 16s only.

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MEAL 5 £16.99 1x 1/4 pounder with Cheese 2x 1/4 pounder with Cheese 4 Chips, 1x Lamb Doner 1x Bottle Soft Drink 	MEAL 6 £9.99 1x 1/4 pounder with Cheese 1x 1/2 Pounder with Cheese 2x Portion of Chips 1x Bottle Soft Drink 	MEAL 7 £10.99 1x Lrg Doner 1x 1/4 Pounder with Cheese 2x Portions of Chips 2x Cans of Drink 	MEAL 8 £4.99 2x Sausages 1x Portion Chips 1x Can of Drink 	For only £16.99 Go stuffed crust at small extra cost

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Jaws will have you gripped...

By Josh Cox

THE world's most feared great white shark is back.

Watch the original movie blockbuster, *Jaws*, while The Czech National Symphony Orchestra plays the Academy Award-winning score, which made John Williams a household name in film, live in concert.

Based on the best-selling novel by Peter Benchley and directed by Steven Spielberg, the nail-biting drama tells the tale of a small New England seaside community terrorised by a predatory great white shark during the busiest weekend of the tourist season.

Despite a notoriously difficult ocean shoot with constant technical challenges, *Jaws* became the most successful movie of all time, until the release of *Star Wars* two years later.

Spielberg has often credited Williams' score with much of the film's success.

Now, audiences have the chance to enjoy the power of a live symphony orchestra performing the entire score

in sync with this masterpiece of suspense, in the ultimate film-with-orchestra experience.

John Williams is an American conductor and composer who is perhaps one of the most influential composers of the film industry.

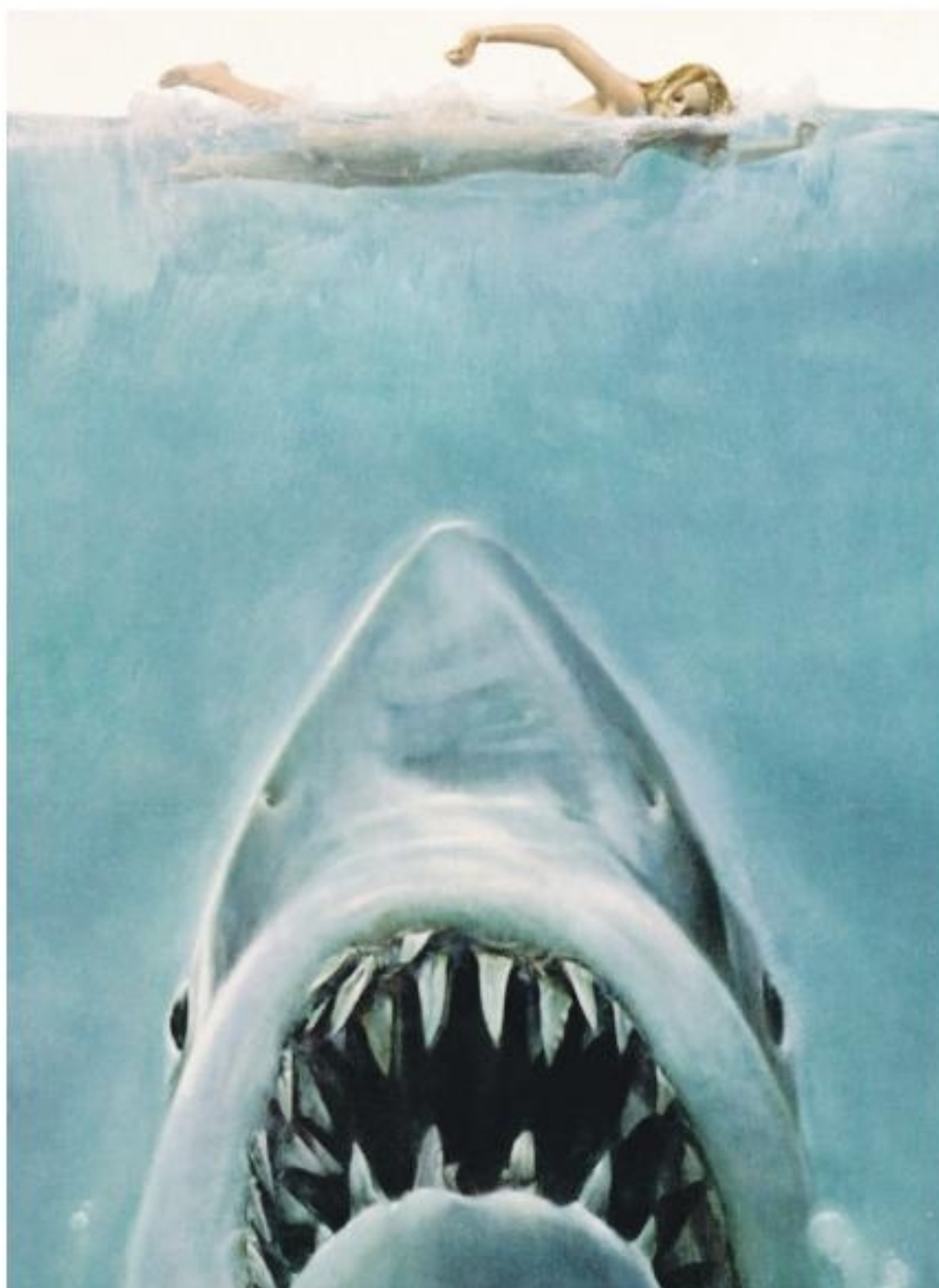
The Czech National Symphony Orchestra is currently celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. Renowned for their versatility, the orchestra annually presents a broad programme ranging from classical music concerts through to contemporary film scores, jazz and musicals.

Jaws earned a vast number of awards including the People's Choice Award For Favourite Movie 1976, a Golden Globe for Best Original Score and a BAFTA for Best Film Music.

Jaws in Concert will be at The Anvil on April 13 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are priced from £27.50 to £55. Under 16s pay £20 but note the film has a 12A certification.

For more information or tickets, call the Anvil Arts box office on 01256 844244, or visit anvilarts.org.uk.



On stage

Easter egg fun

Easter Bunny's Eggs Factor is coming to The Haymarket on Saturday.

Suitable for ages two to seven; this is a unique blend of child friendly songs, such as Old MacDonald Had a Farm, Wheels on the Bus and The Hokey Cokey, and Easter Bunny fun with a few special surprises.

The show begins at 1.30pm. Tickets £12.

Hey Jude, heard this...

Beatles tribute act, The Blue Beatles will be performing at The Swan in Sherborne St John on Saturday.

The band not only looks authentic, with their iconic grey collarless suits with mop-top haircuts and replica Beatles guitars, but they sound just like them too.

The free gig starts at 9pm.

Drop in for a visit

Head to the Wote Street Club in Basingstoke on April 14 to see local band Flying Visit.

The group was formed in 1970 and has many genres to their portfolio including classic rock and roll, country rock, blues, and ballads among others.

Entry is £3 for non-members. The band will start at 8.30pm.

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CROSS CODE

16	18	16	5	4	19	8	9		13	22	8	2
8		3		6		17		4		6		9
13	2	24	5	8	17	7		6	23	1	6	8
10		15		23		16		19		14		23
	26	16	19	24	22		1	24	12	16	23	13
25				13	7	24	21	2		24		11
21	14	19	10		16	8	2		8	23	2	6
16		21		4	16	9	17	7				18
13	6	14	23	8	19		7	24	26	26	10	
2		14		3		13	9		16		20	
6	23	8	23	16		7	16	9	24	6	23	16
24		14		1		21	24		14		13	
23	16	16	1		8	23	14	9	6	16	13	2

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

ART INDEED, MIRANDA

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.



Quiz Challenge

- With which country does Italy share its longest border?
- In the title of the seventh and final Adrian Mole diary, which part of the male human body is mentioned?
- Which British pop group had a UK No 1 hit single in 1966 with the Lennon and McCartney track Michelle?
- The Sam Maguire Cup is associated with which sport?
- Who was the first astronaut to go into space twice?
- Which character did Matthew Perry play in the long-running TV series Friends?
- The title character in the TV crime drama series Luther is played by which British actor?
- "Give me a home where the buffalo roam, where the deer and the antelope play" are lines from which cowboy song?
- Tossed Salads and Scrambled Eggs is theme song for which US TV sitcom?
- Grafton Street and Henry Street are two principal shopping areas in which city?

NONAGRAM

L	E	T
I	B	M
E	A	T

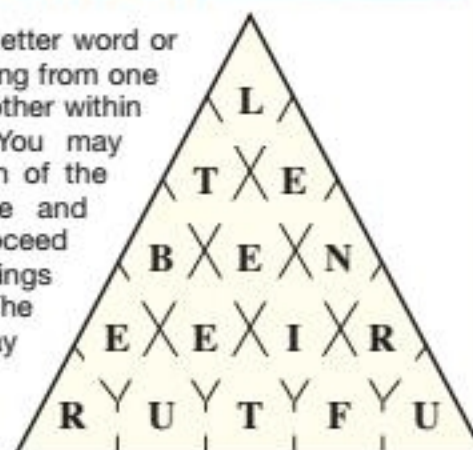
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines: 19 Good; 23 Very Good; 27 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns; pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.



FIVE ALIVE

CH	EL	FA	IT	MY
HA		BI		AO
AS	LT	AE	RA	KM
TI		FN		EB
RE	NA	DT	IE	OD

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

EQUALISER

6	6
3	2
2	2
6	2
1	2

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try more of our puzzles interactively online go to www.puzzledrome.com

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8				9			
10							
	11		12	13	14		
	15						16
17		18		19			
20						21	
22				23			

ACROSS

- Landing at the end of the flight (8)
- Quote it in church (4)
- Fine linen cut regularly in summer (4)
- In so far as Munich was redeveloped (8)
- Exactly what is needed to gain admission (4,3,6)
- A cat has a very small part (4)
- Tore round using a mechanical procedure (4)
- Like Cain perhaps, one not previously convicted (5,8)
- Vagrant was ahead but was crushed underfoot (8)
- Pity the girl (4)
- Vegetable one is poor to be without (4)
- Line of dirt, it marked change (8)

DOWN

- Does it commemorate tooth decay? (6)
- Youngster having a very small drink (4,3)
- In the open air I should find this terrier (5)
- Dash to pieces with wild threats (7)
- Humorous commanding officer has Frenchman in charge (5)
- Made the correct marking (6)
- Illuminated, having worked outside normal hours? (7)
- Mutt ran off in a fit of temper (7)
- Bit about right to make a hole in (6)
- Arouse wild tribes (6)
- Boy wrong about doctor (5)
- Lost strength and disappeared (5)

QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8				9	10		
12		13				15	
					17		
	16						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26					27		
29			28				30
31						32	

ACROSS

- Embrace (6)
- Wailed (6)
- Bodyguard (6)
- Recluse (6)
- British port (5)
- Vocalist (6)
- Appending (6)
- Sour (4)
- Amphibian (4)
- Smack (4)
- Legal action (4)
- Stick (6)
- Make beloved (6)

DOWN

- Concise (5)
- TV comedy show (inf.) (6)
- Spanish rice dish (6)
- Account (6)
- Decay in timber (3,3)
- Dairy food (6)
- Respectable (6)
- Pantry (6)
- Exaggerate (6)
- Transparent (6)
- Senility (6)
- Legal wrong (4)
- Warmth (4)
- End of a roof (5)
- Patron saint of Wales (5)
- German emperor (6)
- Confined (4,2)
- Bower (6)
- Hair treatment (inf.) (4)
- Ooze (4)
- Not just (6)
- Bank employee (6)
- Downright (6)

SUDOKU

Easy

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Hard

2	6		8	5		9	7	
	5	8	4				6	3
		7		6				
6	9	2		3		7		
	4		6				9	
			9		3	8		
			4	1				4
			8		6	3	9	

			5	1	7			
				2		6		5
	3				6	1		
		9	3					
	4			6				
		5			8	7		3
	8	4				9		
7		3					5	
					9	3		6

SOLUTIONS

CROSS CODE: 1 Switzerland; 2 Prostrate (Adrian Mole); 3 The Overlanders; 4 Gaelic football; 5 Virgil 'Gus' Grason; 6 Chandler Bing; 7 Idols Elton; 8 Home on the Range; 9 Fraser; 10 Dublin.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Upstairs; 6 Cite; 8 Lawn; 9 Inasmuch; 10 Just the ticket; 11 Atom; 13 Role; 17 First offender; 20 Trampled; 21 Ruth; Down – 2 Plaque; 3 Tiny tot; 4 Irish; 5 Shatter; 6 Comic; 7 Ticked; 12 Moonlit; 14 Tantrum; 15 Pierce; 16 Beater; 18 Simon; 19 abet; 20 Able; 21 albert; 22 albert; 23 Ticker; 24 Ticker; 25 Arrant.

NONAGRAM: Down – 1 Cheese; 2 Decent; 3 Larder; 5 Overdo; 6 Limpid; 7 Singler; 14 Adding; 16 Tart; 17 Toad; 19 Slap; 22 Suit; 26 Adhere; 27 Endear; 28 Brief; 29 Sift; 30 Paila; 31 Report; 32 Dry rot.

QUICK CROSSWORD: Across – 1 Cuddles; 4 Howled; 8 Escort; 10 Hermit; 11 Dover; 12 Faded; Down – 2 Plaque; 3 Tiny tot; 4 Irish; 5 Shatter; 6 Comic; 7 Ticked; 12 Moonlit; 14 Tantrum; 15 Pierce; 16 Beater; 18 Simon; 19 abet; 20 Able; 21 albert; 22 albert; 23 Ticker; 24 Ticker; 25 Arrant.

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AutoWeekly

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Hyundai i10 Premium SE 1.2 87PS

Poised, easy to park, perfect little car

By Tony Yates

I'M not sure about you – but I just love a small car. They make me feel all warm inside, plus of course, you can park them pretty much anywhere that takes your fancy. Your neighbour's garden path, for instance, is a good place to start, although, he was most unhappy about that.

Well, this week I have the funky little i10 to test, and I have to say that Hyundai has gone all out with this new and improved version, and I for one, am really impressed by its remarkable ability to work just as well in the city as it does out on the twisty country roads.

Power & efficiency

My test car was fitted with a 4 cylinder 1.25-litre, 16-valve, DOHC petrol engine that has 87PS and 121Nm of torque @4000rpm and a top speed of around 109mph. You can also opt for the 66PS, 1.0-litre, 3 cylinder petrol, which will reach a max speed of 97mph, which if I'm honest, is just as much fun to use as the more powerful 4 cylinder version.

The 87PS engine is actually very refined, and the 66PS is just as good in my opinion, so deciding on which engine to choose is really just a matter of personal choice. You also get a decent five-speed manual gearbox which is slick and feels well in sync with the engine. Fuel economy was also very good and under normal driving conditions, I managed to achieve a figure of around 50 plus mpg (combined) without breaking a sweat.

On the road

I will keep it simple here; the little i10 is the perfect car to scoot about in – because it's poised, easy to park and you will always have a little smile on your face whenever you are out and about. Ok, it does feel a little 'firm' but that's all the fun of the i10.

Plus, the steering is also direct and the grip levels are good, which means the i10 feels tight and taut into the corners. I'm going to say that Hyundai has done a pretty good job of getting the whole package to work together and I have no issues in saying that it

performs well out on the open road. In fact, it has been a while since I have driven any small car that has felt so connected to the road.

Design & technology

On the outside, the i10 looks relatively elegant, but it does have a basic look about it on the inside. But, saying that, the little i10 is priced very well for its market, so I didn't expect it to be festooned with a carbon fibre dashboard or leather seating.

As I said earlier, it does look a touch basic on the inside, but you do get quite a lot of standard equipment on the Premium SE trim, which includes; DAB digital radio, sporty 15" alloy wheels, air conditioning – climate control, rear parking sensors, Bluetooth connectivity, touchscreen satellite navigation 7" + Android Auto + Apple Carplay, airbags (front, front side & curtain airbags), ABS with ESP, BAS (Brake Assist System), HAC (Hill-start Assist Control), TPMS (Tyre Pressure Monitoring System) and VSM (Vehicle Stability Management).



To sum up

The i10 is a decent car that's packed full of additional extras for very little money. If you are thinking of buying

one then I would test both the 66PS and the 87ps version before you decide – although, both in my book are worthy of 5 stars if I'm being totally honest.

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'Stoke end up deserved winners

By Owen Hughes

BASINGSTOKE Town edged a seven goal thriller with Farnborough on Easter Monday to hold on to 11th place in the Evo-Stik South Premier.

Goals from Callum Bunting, Sam Smart and Sam Deadfield earned 'Stoke a 4-3 victory over their neighbours from 20 miles down the road.

Basingstoke gave starts to Tom Leggett and Jordan Goater replacing Tim Wohlfiel and Dan Collier in the only changes from the loss at King's Lynn.

New signing Jim Orvis was included

on the bench alongside under-16 goalkeeper Jack Martin.

Bunting opened the scoring for the home side with seven minutes on the clock from the first corner of the game.

Jack McKnight whipped the ball into the back post where Bunting was waiting to pounce and the 'Stoke man could have added another 10 minutes later but for the width of the post.

The visitors levelled from a corner of their own on 18 minutes when Luke King poked the ball into the roof of the net before adding a second six minutes later from another set piece

to put the away side ahead.

The lead didn't last long as Bunting stabbed home from six yards out within two minutes of falling behind to notch his second of the afternoon and free-scoring Basingstoke's 100th goal of the season in all competitions.

With half an hour played, 'Stoke were back in front thanks to a deflected effort from Sam Smart to send the home side into the break 3-2 up.

Orvis came on at half time in place of the injured Charlie Kennedy to make his debut for the club and was called upon to block an early effort.

On 51 minutes, the visitors were level again as an incensed manager Terry Brown watched on as Connor Calcutt slotted the ball past Colm McAdden.

The back-and-forth exchanges continued as Sam Deadfield bagged his second in as many matches to put the home side 4-3 ahead after latching onto a rebounded effort from Bunting.

Despite a late Smart effort cannoning back off the post, the scoreline remained the same and 'Stoke ran out deserved winners.

Basingstoke next face Royston on Saturday at Garden Walk.

Sports Shorts

Bufs season finale

BASINGSTOKE Buffalo welcome Chelmsford Chieftains to Hampshire on Sunday for their last game of the season.

The match will bring to a close a frustrating season marred by a constant stream of defeats.

The Bufs, 11th but still in danger of slipping a place, have lost 15 of their 25 matches but head into South Two's final matchday on the back of a 7-4 victory over winless Lee Valley Lions.

Chelmsford lost to Bracknell Hornets on Saturday, halting their 10-match winning streak.

Weather the winner

HARTLEY Wintney were twice denied by the weather as Saturday's trip to Kempston Rovers and Monday's clash with Fleet Town were both called off.

A number of fixtures were cancelled due to the bad weather, leaving the Row fourth in the Evo-Stik South East league table on 70 points.

Bank Holiday Monday's afternoon kick-off with Fleet was rescheduled for Wednesday at 7.30pm as we went to print.

Tigers set to roar

TADLEY Tigers head into Saturday's mid-table clash at home to Bletchley with a point to prove.

Just two points separate Tadley in fifth and Bletchley in sixth and the home side will want to bounce back following a shock 22-0 defeat at bottom club Abingdon last time out on March 24.

Tadley lost both their games in March having also lost 28-10 at home to second-placed Littlemore.

Bletchley have won, drawn and lost their previous three matches.

If wet... postponed

ONLY three of 12 Wessex First Division matches beat the wet Easter weekend weather.

Whitchurch United's trip to Andover New Street on Friday and Tadley Calleva's home match against Downton on Monday were both wash outs and will be rearranged in due course.

United's game at East Cowes Victoria on Tuesday did go ahead however, as the Jam Boys lost 3-0.

Saturday sees Tadley entertain East Cowes Victoria and Whitchurch host Romsey Town.

United are at home again on Monday when they play Downton.

Can Rose master Augusta this time after last year's agony?

WALKING the grounds of Augusta National could be the perfect preparation for Justin Rose as the north Hampshire golfer plots to go one better at the 2018 Masters.

The former Tylney Park and Hartley Wintney club member admitted it took him a "month or so to find the motivation again" after so painfully losing last year's play-off to Sergio Garcia.

But the 37-year-old took time out of the sport earlier this year to ensure he is fresh ahead of this weekend's tournament in Georgia.

"You're going through memories and shots you hit and shots that didn't come off so I just wanted to have that walk before the tournament," he told BBC Sport.

"It was important to come and walk

the grounds."

Rose surged up to fifth in the world rankings on the back of three titles in his past 11 events and racked up a staggering run of consistency.

Before Sunday's tied-52 finish at the Houston Open, Rose had posted 13 top-10 finishes in 15 starts, meaning he leads nine players bidding to win the 2018 Masters.

He said: "I'm coming in high on confidence but low in expectation - there are so many variables I can't control."

Rose tees off in the final group with world number one Dustin Johnson and Spaniard Rafa Cabrera-Bello, at 7pm BST.

Justin Rose will be hoping he can put last year's disappointment behind him when he tees off today



Sarah shines on the slopes after picking up silvers

Odiham skier Sarah Woodward took two silver medals from the British Championships



ODIHAM teenage skiing sensation Sarah Woodward took two silver medals from her week at the Delancey British Alpine Championships in Tignes.

The 17-year-old ski star finished second in the Under-18 category of the ladies' junior Giant Slalom race to end her week at the championships as the joint-second overall points scorer on Sunday.

Woodward shone during the championship event and demonstrated why she is one of the sport's rising young stars with her excellent finish.

She said: "It's really cool racing here, there's so many great athletes around pushing me even harder to keep working next season and come back to the British Champs next year

and do even better.

"I've got some races coming up next week and I've had individual runs that have been quite good so that's really confidence boosting."

The event boasts the best of British skiing and includes Basingstoke's Olympian skier Laurie Taylor.

■ To follow the progress of the Delancey British Alpine Ski Team visit www.teambss.org.uk or follow @teambss on Twitter. As Principal Sponsor of British Ski and Snowboard, specialist real estate investment and advisory company Delancey is proud to be able to provide British athletes with the support they require to win World Cup and Winter Olympic medals. For more information visit www.delancey.com

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Inside: Town edge victory over neighbours | Can Rose master Augusta this year? | Young skier scoops double silver medals

Another weekend, another trophy, Bison win play offs

By Owen Hughes

BASINGSTOKE Bison added another trophy to their swelling cabinet as the league winners were crowned play-off champions on Sunday.

Bison proved their credentials with a hard-earned 2-1 win on home ice in the second leg of the South One play-off final against Peterborough Phantoms.

Both sides went into the final game in need of a win following the 1-1 opening leg in Peterborough on Saturday.

Pride was also at stake for the Phantoms, having missed out on glory in the NIHL South One to Bison last month.

For the home team, the play-off final was an opportunity to double their tally for the season having already secured qualification for the Coventry National Finals this weekend.

Roman Malinik led the stampede towards play-off victory when Bison's man of the match tucked away Grant Rounding's pass at the back post on 10.07 minutes.

Sublime saves from Dean Skinnis kept Bison in the lead at the end of the first period as Phantoms fought to get back into the game.

Bison returned for the second period of the powerplay after Greg Pick picked up a roughing call at 20.00 but were unable to take advantage.

Both teams jostled to get the puck in the net as captain Aaron Connolly missed chances at one end while Will Weedon scuppered opportunities at the other.

It was Phantoms who would score next when Ales Padelek squeezed the puck past an almost impeccable Skinnis at the post on 32.54 to tie the score on the night and draw level pegging in the aggregate score.

Just 94 seconds later, the Herd reclaimed the lead when Malinik redirected a pass from Davies 5-hole on Euan King to make it 2-1.

Problems with the Zamboni (ice resurfer) in the break between second and third periods led to an hour long gap before the restart.

Phantoms threw everything at Bison as netminder King remained on the bench with two minutes to go, but they could not force the all important equaliser.

Bison held on for victory to secure their position as the top seeded Southern Team in the Coventry finals this weekend. Bison will now take on the North's second seeded team, Sheffield Steeldogs, in the semi-finals on Saturday at 5pm.

The South One rivals could still meet again as Phantoms take on northern top seeds Telford, with the winners of both fixtures deciding the national champions the following day.

Basingstoke Bison celebrate being the play-off champions
Picture: grantkingphotography.com



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